

I CLAIM:

1. A method to offset stack pages of successive print or copy jobs that are supplied to a page output unit as a page stream, comprising the steps of:
offset stacking the pages of a successive second job over the pages of a preceding first job;
spatially offsetting the pages of the successive second job with respect to the pages of the preceding first job; and
mechanically fixing an uppermost page to a first page stack after offset stacking of the first job.
2. A method according to claim 1, said step of fixing ensues in a region of the uppermost page that is not covered by pages of the second job due to the spatial displacement of the pages of the second job relative to the first job.
3. A method according to claim 1, wherein said step of fixing uses pressure on the uppermost page.
4. A method according to claim 3, wherein the pressure is mechanically exerted.
5. A method according to claim 3, wherein the pressure is exerted as one of a positive pressure and a negative pressure of a gas or gas mixture.
6. A method according to claim 5, wherein the gas mixture is air.
7. A method according to claim 5, further comprising the step of:
generating said one of positive and negative pressure for the pressure on the uppermost page by a compressor that is also used to generate one of negative and positive pressure to separate page-shaped recording media from a stack.
8. A method according to claim 5, further comprising the step of:

adjusting a strength of said one of positive and negative pressure dependent on a weight of the pages.

9. A method according to claim 1, wherein said offset stacking ensues in an output device of a printer or copy device.

10. A method according to claim 1, wherein said step of offset stacking is carried out in a page acceptance region that is bordered by two stoppers disposed at right angles to one another, said two stoppers including a front wall lying on a common axis and a side wall arranged at a right angle thereto, and further comprising the steps of:
laterally displacing the pages along a common axis;
using a first paddlewheel for said offset stacking of the first pages of the first job, said first paddlewheel being provided in a region of the first stopper to advance the first pages with their corners into the right angle of the first stopper;
using a second paddlewheel for the offset stacking of the second pages of the second job, said second paddlewheel being provided in a region of the second stopper to advance the second pages with their corners into the right angle of the second stopper; and
performing said step of mechanical fixing in the region of a stopper.

11. A method according to claim 10, further comprising the steps of:
shifting one of said first and second paddlewheels and a device to mechanically fix the pages along an axle for a format change-over of the pages.

12. A method according to claim 11, wherein said paddlewheels and said device to mechanically fix the pages are mechanically and rigidly connected with one another.

13. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

mechanically fixing an uppermost page of a second page stack to the second page stack after offset stacking of the second job and while a subsequently third job is offset stacked without displacement with regard to the first page stack.

14. A method according to claim 13, wherein said step of mechanically fixing of the uppermost page of the second page stack ensues in a region of the uppermost page that is not covered by pages of the third job due to spatial displacement of said second page stack from said third job.

15. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:
raising a fixing device for an uppermost page of a preceding job again after offset stacking of a plurality of pages of a further subsequent job.

16. A method according to claim 1, wherein the job is a print job.

17. A method according to claim 1, wherein the job is a copy job.

18. A method according to claim 1, wherein said fixing of the uppermost page performed with negative pressure, and a device to fix the uppermost page includes a valve that is opened and closed under control of a vertical position of the device for fixing.

19. A method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of:
controlling the vertical position of the device to fix via a control shaft with the vertical position of a paddlewheel to offset stack the print or copy job.

20. A device to offset stack pages of successive print or copy jobs that are supplied to a page output unit as a page stream, comprising:

a page offset stacking apparatus mounted and operable to offset stack the pages of a successive second job over pages of a preceding first job so that said pages of said second job and said first job are spatially offset with respect to one another; and a fixing device with which an uppermost page of the first page stack is mechanically fixed to the first page stack.

21. A device according to claim 20, wherein said fixing device is disposed in a region of the uppermost page that is not covered by pages of the second job due to the spatial displacement.

22. A device according to claim 20, wherein said fixing device is operable to exert a pressure on the uppermost page.

23. A device according to claim 22, wherein the pressure is mechanically exerted.

24. A device as claimed in claim 22, wherein the pressure is exerted with elastic force.

25. A device according to claim 22, wherein the pressure is exerted by the fixing device with one of a positive and negative pressure of a gas or gas mixture.

26. A device according to claim 25, wherein air is provided as a gas mixture.

27. A device according to claim 25, further comprising:
a compressor connected to said fixing device to generate the one of positive and negative pressure, said compressor being connected to provide the one of negative and positive pressure to separate page-shaped recording media from a stack.

28. A device according to claim 25, whereby a control is provided with which a strength of the one of positive and negative pressure is adjusted dependent on a weight of the pages.

29. A device according to claim 20, further comprising:
a page acceptance region in which all pages are offset stacked;
two stoppers bordering said page acceptance region and disposed at right angles to one another, said two stoppers including a front wall lying on a common axis and a side wall arranged at a right angle thereto;
lateral displacement of pages ensuing along the common axis;
a first paddlewheel is provided in a region of a first stopper of said two stoppers, said first paddlewheel being operable to advance first pages with their corners into the right angle of the first stopper, said first paddlewheel providing offset stacking of the first pages of the first job;
a second paddlewheel is provided in a region of a second stopper of said two stoppers, said second paddlewheel being operable to advance second pages with their corners into the right angle of the second stopper, said second paddlewheel providing offset stacking of the second pages of the second job, and
said fixing device is disposed in a region of a stopper.

30. A device according to claim 29, wherein at least one of said two paddlewheels and said fixing device are mounted so as to be movable along an axle for a format change-over of the pages.

31. A device according to claim 30, wherein said at least one of said two paddlewheels and said fixing device are mechanically and rigidly connected with one another.

32. A printer or copy device, comprising:

a recording media transport system to transport pages of recording media for print jobs, said transport system having an input and an output;

a printing apparatus mounted to print recording media as it is transported by said transport system, said printing apparatus printing the recording media in print jobs;

a page offset stacking apparatus at said output and operable to offset stack the pages of a successive second print job over pages of a preceding first print job so that said pages of said second job and said first job are spatially offset with respect to one another;

and

a fixing device with which an uppermost page of the first page stack is mechanically fixed to the first page stack.